GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4715
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2000
IMPROPER STORAGE OF AMMUNITIONS
SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG in their report ending March 31, 1996 on Army and Ordnance Factories had commented that due to improper storage conditions and inadequate design of containers of fuze B-429, 29981 fuzes valued at Rs. 4.33 crore were affected by dangerous copper azide formation which had to be declared unserviceable/destroyed apart from loss of fuzes valued at Rs. 1.19 crore due to explosion;

(b) if so, whether the matter was enquired into and action taken;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there have been further losses on account of the above; and

(e) if so, the details thereof together with reasons for not taking corrective steps?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The containers in which fuze B-429 were kept had rubber disc to seal the containers against moisture. However, due to heavy corrosion there was copper azide formation which led to the fuze being declared unserviceable. The design of the container was modified in 1995 and the material of the disc was changed from rubber to capcell (a type of plastic).

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In view of (d) above, question does not arise.